

**SHILOH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ARKANSAS FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (January 6, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Eli Wisdom** of **Shiloh Christian School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Arkansas Football Player of the Year**. Wisdom is the second Gatorade Arkansas Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Shiloh Christian School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Wisdom as Arkansas' best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award to be announced in January, Wisdom joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Trevor Lawrence (2018-19 & 2016-17, Cartersville High School, Ga.), Matthew Stafford (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas) and Emmitt Smith (1986-87, Escambia High School, Fla.).

The 5-foot-11, 175-pound senior quarterback led the Saints to a 12-2 record and a berth in the 5A state championship game. Wisdom completed 203 of 321 pass attempts (63.2 completion percentage) for 3,178 yards and 35 touchdowns with 11 interceptions. He also rushed 155 times for 1,454 yards, averaging 9.4 yards per carry, and scored 20 touchdowns.

Wisdom has volunteered locally at the Feed the 479 food pantry. He also has donated his time both cleaning up and helping to build playgrounds for a local women's shelter. "Eli is one of the best football players I've coached against in my 24 years at the high school level," said Alma High School head coach Rusty Bush. "The thing that makes him an effective QB is the fact that he can do it all. He has the ability to distribute the ball to whoever, and however he needs to. And, he has a chance to make an explosive play with his feet at any point in time."

Wisdom has maintained a 3.57 GPA in the classroom. At the time of his selection, he remained undecided upon a collegiate destination.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Wisdom joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Football Players of the Year Joe Himon (2021-22, Pulaski Academy), Austin Ledbetter (2020-21, Bryant High School), Jacolby Criswell (2019-20, Morrilton High School), and Justice Hill (2018-19, Little Rock Christian Academy), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade)

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